

**STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY**  
**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
January 28, 2016

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chairman  
Sara Ramirez Giroux (Public Member)  
Ann Notthoff (Public Member)  
Peter Sadowski (Public Member)  
Bryan Cash (Designated, Natural Resources)

**OVERSIGHT MEMBERS PRESENT:**

No oversight members attended.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer  
Amy Roach, Chief Counsel

**LOCATION:**

City Council Chambers  
505 Forest Ave.  
Laguna Beach, CA

**1. ROLL CALL**

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chairman  
Sara Ramirez Giroux (Public Member)  
Ann Notthoff (Public Member)  
Peter Sadowski (Public Member)  
Bryan Cash (Designated, Natural Resources)

- 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of the December 3, 2015 public meeting. Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

**3. CONSENT ITEMS**

Chair Bosco asked the board if any consent items needed to be removed. The consent calendar was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

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**A. AT RISK: THE BAY AREA GREENBELT**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to Greenbelt Alliance to produce the 2016 edition of *At Risk: The Bay Area Greenbelt*, including mapping risks to open space in the San Francisco Bay area, as well as evaluation of the value of these lands and existing land use measures to conserve them. Prior to the commencement of work and the disbursement of funds, Greenbelt Alliance shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a detailed work program, Conservancy acknowledgment plan, schedule and budget, and the names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the project.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (Sections 31160-31165), regarding the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.

Greenbelt Alliance is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code.”

**B. COASTAL NORTH HARBOR TRAIL**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department (SCRPD) to prepare engineering designs, environmental analyses and other information needed for permit applications for the Coastal North Harbor Trail segment of the Bodega Bay Coastal Trail, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds, SCRPD shall submit for the written approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer a work program, including schedule and budget, and the names of any contractors it intends to retain for the project.

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2. To the extent feasible, SCRPD shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy's 'Standards and Recommendations for Accessway Location and Development' and all applicable federal and state guidelines for disabled access into the engineering designs for the project."

Findings:

"Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access to and along the coast.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The proposed project will serve greater than local needs."

**C. SOUTH BAY SALT POND RESTORATION PROJECT'S ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to seven hundred fifty-three thousand, six hundred seventy dollars (\$753,670), of which seven hundred fifty thousand (\$750,000) is expected to be reimbursed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, to undertake applied studies associated with the implementation of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project's Adaptive Management Studies, including as follows:

1. To the United States Geological Survey (USGS) up to five hundred sixty-three thousand eight hundred sixty-one dollars (\$563,861) for studies related to sediment transport, mercury accumulation in sediments, and mercury bioaccumulation in the Guadalupe River watershed and the Pond A8 complex.
2. To the University of California at Davis (UCD) up to one hundred eighty-nine thousand eight hundred nine dollars (\$189,809), for studies related to the mercury bioaccumulation in fish in the Guadalupe River watershed and the Pond A8 complex.

Prior to the disbursement of Conservancy funds for a study, the entity responsible for the study shall submit for the review and approval of the Conservancy's Executive Officer a work program for that study, including a schedule and budget."

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Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Conservancy’s mandate to address the resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay Area.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.”

**D. BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred and ten thousand and dollars (\$110,000) to the National Park Service (“NPS”) for use at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) to improve a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail adjacent to Milagra Ridge in the County of San Mateo, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to disbursement of any funds, NPS shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, including a budget and schedule, the names of any contractors to be hired, and a signing plan to acknowledge the Conservancy’s funding for this project.
2. Prior to initiating construction of the project, NPS shall provide written evidence to the Executive Officer of the Conservancy that it has obtained all permits and approvals necessary to implement and complete of the project under applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
3. Conservancy funding for the project shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining one or more signs on or near the project area, the design and location of which has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Officer.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay area.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.”

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**E. LIVING SHORELINES WORKSHOPS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby approves the disbursement of an amount not to exceed twenty six thousand dollars (\$26,000) to Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (“SWIA”) to complete the collection and dissemination of information on living shorelines in Southern California through two workshops. Prior to the disbursement of funds, SWIA shall submit for review and written approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer a work program, including budget and schedule, and any contractors to be employed for these tasks.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding coastal resource enhancement.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Southwest Wetland Interpretive Association is a nonprofit organization existing under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

**4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Amy Hutzal, Deputy Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy, gave an Annual Strategic Plan Update - the third annual progress report on the implementation of the 2013 -2018 Strategic Plan. In June of 2015 the Conservancy adopted an update to the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan to include priorities for Prop 1 funding, refine the climate change objective based on the experience with the Climate Ready grant rounds, add an objective related to the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program and revise objectives related to the provision of low-cost visitor accommodation along the coast. Numerous objectives were exceeded, several others are on track for completion and a few have limited progress. The Coastal Conservancy is farther ahead in meeting implementation objectives than planning objectives. The climate ready and Explore the Coast grant rounds have helped the Conservancy achieve or surpass objective to address climate change and provide educational/interpretive programs. Prop 1 grant rounds over the next two years will help the Conservancy accomplish objectives related to costal watersheds and resources, water quality and sustainability, and climate resilience.

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- B. Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy, gave a report on the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) - a regional government entity in San Francisco Bay Area, which voted to place a \$12 parcel tax on the June 7, 2016 ballot in all nine Bay Area counties to generate funds to protect and restore San Francisco Bay. The \$12 per year for twenty years would generate approximately \$25 million per year totaling \$500 million in 20 years.
- C. Joan Cardellino, South Coast Project Manager of the State Coastal Conservancy, gave a report on Los Angeles Green Infrastructure Conference that was held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in South Gate, CA. The California Coastal Conservancy partnered with the Trust for Public Land, the Council for Watershed Health and the Los Angeles Board of Public Works, which are involved in several Green Infrastructure projects throughout LA County. The purpose of this conference was to clarify the Coastal Conservancy's role and increase recognition of the effort the Coastal Conservancy has put towards some of the most critical Green Infrastructure projects throughout Los Angeles County, and to discuss issues around scaling up or more broadly implementing Green Infrastructure Projects in Los Angeles.
- D. Joan Cardellino, South Coast Project Manager of the State Coastal Conservancy, introduced Elaine Peacock, Carla Pisbe, and Brooke Pinnix, representatives from the Conservancy's partners: The California Endowment and Ocean Discovery Institute, respectively. To help meet the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan goals, create new partnerships to leverage resources, and to broaden support for Coastal access programs by working with public health advocates, the Coastal Conservancy has joined hands with The California Endowment, a California-focused health foundation, and Ocean Discovery Institute, to provide stewardship opportunities in the City Heights neighborhood of San Diego to benefit the local environment, the community, the watershed, and the San Diego Bay.
- E. Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy, gave an update on the sale of the Victorine Ranch Property. In 2000 the State Coastal Conservancy Board approved the implementation plan; setting up terms and condition of the sale of the Victorine Ranch Property. In 2013 a realtor was hired. A minor revision of the implementation plan was made in December of 2015. Chris Kroll, Project Manager, and Jack Judkins, Attorney of the State Coastal Conservancy worked hard on this effort and the Coastal Conservancy is now in contract to sell the property to a single buyer. The purchase is subject to a lengthy due diligence period which includes DGS review and approval.

## **SOUTH COAST**

### **5. MANZANITA CANYON HABITAT**

Julia Elkin of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in support of the Staff Recommendation: Elaine Peacock, The California Endowment; Carla Pisbe and Brooke Pinnix, Ocean Discovery Institute.

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Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to the Ocean Discovery Institute to restore habitat in Manzanita Canyon, subject to the following condition:

1. Prior to disbursement of any funds, Ocean Discovery Institute shall submit for the review and written approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer the following:
  - a. A detailed work program, including budget and schedule;
  - b. A signage plan to acknowledge Conservancy funding for the project;
  - c. Evidence that Ocean Discovery Institute has permission to implement the project on City of San Diego property.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. Ocean Discovery Institute is a nonprofit organization existing under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding coastal and marine resources protection.
3. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
4. The Conservancy has reviewed the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the City Heights Canyon Enhancements and Trail Project (2014), adopted by the City of San Diego on June 20, 2014 (“MND”) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 2, and finds that the portion of the proposed project addressed in the MND avoids or reduces the possible significant environmental effects to a level of insignificance, and that there is no substantial evidence that the portion of the proposed project addressed in the MND will have a significant effect on the environment.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

**6. SAN DIEGO BAY NATIVE OYSTER**

Megan Cooper of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby approves the disbursement of an amount not to exceed three hundred and thirteen thousand nine hundred and fifty three dollars (\$313,953) to Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (“SWIA”) to complete studies, designs and engineering that are needed for environmental review and analysis and permit applications for

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a native oyster restoration project adjacent to the Sweetwater Marsh Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge located in San Diego County. Prior to the disbursement of funds, SWIA shall submit for review and written approval of the Conservancy's Executive Officer a work program, including budget and schedule, and any contractors to be employed for these tasks."

Findings:

"Based on the accompanying staff recommendation and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding coastal resource enhancement.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association is a nonprofit organization existing under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.

Moved and seconded. Approve unanimously.

**STATEWIDE**

**7. CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL PROJECT**

Tim Duff of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in support of the Staff Recommendation: Una M.J. Glass, California Coastal Trail Association (CCTA).

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred five thousand dollars (\$105,000) over a three a three-year period to the California Coastal Trail Association (CCTA) to manage the California Coastal Trail Association, to promote public use and continued development of the California Coastal Trail, and to pay Conservancy dues for membership in the CCTA. This authorization is subject to the condition that prior to the disbursement of any funds, CCTA shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, budget, schedule, and the names of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the project."



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Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the implementation of a system of public access ways to and along the state’s coastline.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The California Coastal Trail Association is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

**8. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session.

**9. CONSERVANCY MEMBER COMMENT**

There were no Conservancy comments.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON –AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no public comments.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am